

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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Estate of Charles T. Close	:	
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	:	
Plaintiff(s),	:	No. <u>22</u> Civ. <u>7449</u> (RA)
	:	
-v-	:	
	:	<u>CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND</u>
Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company	:	<u>SCHEDULING ORDER</u>
	:	
Defendant(s).	:	
	:	
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RONNIE ABRAMS, United States District Judge:

Pursuant to Rules 16-26(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court hereby adopts the following Case Management Plan and Scheduling Order:

1. All parties [consent _____ / do not consent xx] to conducting all further proceedings before a United States Magistrate Judge, including motions and trial. 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). The parties are free to withhold consent without adverse substantive consequences. *[If all parties consent, the remainder of the Order need not be completed at this time.]*
2. The parties [have _____ / have not xx] engaged in settlement discussions.
3. This case [is _____ / is not xx] to be tried to a jury.
4. No additional parties may be joined after January 27, 2022 without leave of the Court.
5. No amendments to the pleadings may be made after February 28, 2023 without leave of the Court.
6. Initial disclosures pursuant to Rule 26(a)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall be completed no later than _____. *[Absent exceptional circumstances, within fourteen (14) days of the date of the parties' conference pursuant to Rule 26(f).]* This action is exempt from initial disclosures pursuant to FRCP 26(a)(1)(B)(i)
7. All fact discovery is to be completed no later than April 7, 2023 _____. *[A period not to exceed 120 days unless the case presents unique complexities or other exceptional circumstances.]*
It is Cigna's position that discovery outside the administrative records is inappropriate. Plaintiffs believe there may be motion practice related to the scope of discovery.


8. The parties are to conduct discovery in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the Southern District of New York. The following interim deadlines may be extended by the parties on consent without application to the Court, provided that the parties meet the deadline for completing fact discovery set forth in ¶ 7 above.
 - a. Initial requests for production of documents shall be served by January 6, 2023.
 - b. Interrogatories shall be served by January 13, 2023.
 - c. Depositions shall be completed by March 3, 2023.
 - d. Requests to Admit shall be served no later than February 17, 2023.
9. All expert discovery, including disclosures, reports, production of underlying documents, and depositions shall be completed by April 7, 2023. [The parties shall be prepared to describe their contemplated expert discovery and the bases for their proposed deadlines at the initial conference.]
10. All discovery shall be completed no later than April 7, 2023.
11. The Court will conduct a post-discovery conference on April 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.. ~~[To be completed by the Court.]~~ No later than one week in advance of the conference, the parties are to submit a joint letter updating the Court on the status of the case, including but not limited to whether either party intends to file a dispositive motion and what efforts the parties have made to settle the action.
The parties shall use the following dial-in information to call in to the conference: (888) 363-4749; Access Code: 1015508.
12. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the joint pretrial order and additional submissions required by Rule 6 of the Court's Individual Rules and Practices shall be due thirty (30) days from the close of discovery, or if any dispositive motion is filed, thirty (30) days from the Court's decision on such motion. This case shall be trial ready sixty (60) days from the close of discovery or the Court's decision on any dispositive motion.
13. Counsel for the parties propose the following alternative dispute resolution mechanism for this case:
 - a. Referral to a Magistrate Judge for settlement discussions.
 - b. Referral to the Southern District's Mediation Program. *[Note that all employment discrimination cases, except cases brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., are designated for automatic referral to the Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution program of mediation. Accordingly, counsel in such cases should select 13(b).]*
 - c. X Retention of a private mediator.

The use of any alternative dispute resolution mechanism does not stay or modify any date in this Order.

14. The parties have conferred and their present best estimate of the length of trial is Plaintiff contends one week. Cigna contends that, because the Court's review is presumptively limited to the administrative records, a trial will not be necessary.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: 12/5/2022
New York, New York



Ronnie Abrams
United States District Judge